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Letter dated 27 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement on recent events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 22 March 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 27 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on recent events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 22 March 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union strongly condemns the recent outbreak of fighting in Moliro and the subsequent suspension of the inter-Congolese dialogue. It firmly supports United Nations Security Council resolution 1399 (2002), adopted following the taking of Moliro by RCD-Goma, and welcomes the resumption of the inter-Congolese dialogue in Sun City. The European Union calls on all parties to fully respect the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the terms of the Lusaka peace process as well as all relevant Security Council resolutions.

The European Union urges the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of RCD-Goma from Moliro and calls upon the Government of Rwanda to exert its influence to ensure that this is done as a matter of urgency. It is important that no party to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement should make gains while a dialogue to promote peace and end the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is in process and a peacekeeping operation is under way in the area.

The European Union also calls for the redeployment and strengthening of MONUC observers in the areas concerned and for MONUC to make a full report on the events that led to the violation of the ceasefire and the taking of Moliro.

The European Union notes with satisfaction the meeting in Lusaka of the Political Committee of the Lusaka Agreement and welcomes the summit convened by the President of Zambia in Lusaka in the next few days.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.